

## TENNIS CHAMPIONS.

Preparing for the Four Great Tournaments of 1890.

## PROSPECTS EAST AND WEST.

The Battle for Championship Honors and the Cup at Newport—Why Ladies Can Excel.

New York, June 4, 1890.—[Special correspondence of THE HERALD.]



MATEJKA tennis players all over the land are giving up their tennis and getting out their blazers and flannels in anticipation of a very lively and interesting season. Good tennis is becoming the liveliest that has been known since the game was introduced here from England, some half a dozen years ago. There are already twenty odd matches arranged as fixtures for 1890, but the interest centers in the four great championship tournaments of the United States National Tennis Association.

Good form is everything in tennis, and good is its accompaniment. These characteristics will be seen to perfection in the coming tournaments, for every season shows a remarkable advance in the quality of the playing as well as in the multiplication of tennis clubs. Yet so varying is the standard by which the excellence of one's play at tennis is reckoned, that it would probably be difficult to find a dozen amateurs in the whole country who would agree as to the likeliest winner of the championship for singles or doubles during the coming season.

Henry W. Slocum, Jr., is the present holder of championship honors, having won them in 1888, after the title had been held for seven successive years by Richard D. Sears who two years ago was compelled to abandon the sport in consequence of an accident which incapacitated him for a time. Sears, playing as never before, is still in the country. It is strong, brilliant and remarkably even. Like all the great players, he is cool, and rejects the temptation to stand at the net and smash at the ball, even when it seems a safe thing to do. His best point is his backhand, which he places the ball to best advantage. His stroke is said to be not unlike that of Potting, the famous professional tennis player, who has a free movement that most players envy. It is worth remembering too that the name of Sears ranks among the pioneers of the game in the United States. When a tennis set was brought from England by a gentleman of Boston and first used at Nahant sixteen years ago—the requests light and loose affairs and the balls like the rubber ones children play with—Sears and De Witt were the first to attempt the game, and both were so much that they soon became experts. Dwight's skill is second to only that of the ex-champion, whose elder brother was instrumental in bringing the game into prominence.

If there is one game above another in which the American girl delights, and which she can indulge without paying her self up to the imputation of being a rump, it is tennis. In recognition for her readiness for the game, the place of honor in the National Association matches has been conceded to the ladies, who will compete for the single and double championships for women at the grounds of the Philadelphia Cricket Club from June 9 to 14. This tournament will be followed on June 15 to July 5 by the double championships for men at the Staten Island Club grounds, the double championships of the west for men at Chicago from July 14 to 18, and the single championships for men at the Casino August 27 to September 4. On the latter dates the play-off between the winners of the two double championships for men will also take place. In every instance the matches will begin on a Monday, but the fixtures may be changed to suit the convenience of the clubs.

The tennis race has taken hold of Americans more emphatically than any other outdoor game for both sexes that has preceded it. Indeed, we make a good deal more of it here than they do in England. Besides, winter tennis is coming into vogue, the enthusiasts being unwilling to run the risk of being beaten through lack of practice. The winter games—they can hardly be called matches—are held in available racquet courts, and there are no such courts of the game of handball suffices to keep the player in trim. For the ladies, the old-fashioned battledore and shuttlecock—really the proper tennis—is the finest possible exercise for keeping their hands in until the real work of the unrolled court begins. So it happens that, unlike many other sports that belong to the summer alone, tennis does not stagnate in winter. A week hence its devotees will come up to the game with a new hand, and in as good form and playing as strong a game as though the last tournament had closed only a few days before.

Slocum, the champion, is comparatively new man at the game, having begun as a tennis player in 1885. In that year, however, with Mr. Knapp as partner, he showed himself capable of defeating several good players and gaining a place in the final round where Sears and J. S. Clark defeated them in turn. Slocum again met defeat in 1888 and 1889, in the latter year by a very close and exciting contest in which H. A. Taylor and Slocum played five full sets with Dwight, and Sears before the championship was finally decided. Many of the crack players who contested in last year's tournament for the championships are entered again this year. With the exception of the Newport tournament all the entries are pretty full. The double championships for men, east and west, promise to fill and to be successful, while the singles at Newport are sure to bring out the highest crowd of tennis lovers and the finest play of the year. Newport makes tennis a business during tournament week. Nobody does anything else, and all talk and all action is fashionable while the playing lasts is of good form, reverse and overhead service, forehand and backhand volleys and other equally tactical tactics, which are really quite intelligible, since everybody may be presumed to know the rules of the game. The Newport tournament is really the climax of the tennis season, and the players strive to get in the best possible condition for it. It is not unlikely that there may be a little human waste in this as the tennis court is sure to be surrounded in due weather by hordes of the prettiest girls imaginable, who take a deep interest in the tactics and results, besides, are really competent to criticize, since almost all know how to play a capital game. The Newport singles this year will be fought for at the end of the season—the last week in September—which is a little later than usual. The fact that in late years little attention has been paid to other tournaments outside of Newport has stirred up the competing teams to action, and some particular interest may be expected.

The following are the championship records since 1881, in the single for all-

comers, the doubles and the inter-collegiate tournaments:

Yr.	Champion.	Match.	Where Played.
1881	R. D. Sears.	Singles—all comers.	Newport.
	C. M. Clark and F. W. Taylor.	Doubles.	Newport.
1882	R. D. Sears.	Singles—all comers.	Newport.
	R. D. Sears and J. Dwight.	Doubles.	Newport.
1883	R. D. Sears.	Singles—all comers.	Newport.
	R. D. Sears and J. Dwight.	Doubles.	Newport.
1884	J. J. Clark.	Singles—all comers.	Hartford.
	H. A. Taylor and J. J. Clark.	Doubles.	Hartford.
1885	R. D. Sears.	Singles—all comers.	Newport.
	R. D. Sears and J. Dwight.	Doubles.	Newport.
1886	W. P. Knapp.	Singles—all comers.	Hartford.
	W. P. Knapp and W. V. S. Thorne.	Doubles.	Hartford.
1887	R. D. Sears.	Singles—all comers.	Newport.
	R. D. Sears and J. Dwight.	Doubles.	Newport.
1888	W. P. Knapp.	Singles—all comers.	New Haven.
	W. P. Knapp and H. W. Slocum.	Doubles.	New Haven.
1889	R. D. Sears.	Singles—all comers.	Newport.
	R. D. Sears and J. Dwight.	Doubles.	Newport.
1890	H. A. Taylor.	Singles—all comers.	Newport.
	H. A. Taylor and J. Dwight.	Doubles.	Newport.



THE FOUR CHAMPIONS.

Among the five players who will be heard from in the various tournaments, Howard A. Taylor, of New York Athletic Club, one of the rising stars of the tennis court, stands prominent. In the championship of last year, Taylor ranked very high, and it was even predicted that he would win the All-Comers, and make a strong bid for the championship. His defeat of Q. A. Shaw, of Harvard, took everybody by surprise. Shaw, kept up the remarkable record, however, and did astonishingly good work, beating the best men at New York and Narragansett Pier, and making so good a showing that many were disposed to accord him second place in the ranking this year. He may give Slocum a strong fight for the championship. Two other famous cranks, who are sure to be heard from, are O. S. Campbell, who beat Moore, the English player, and scored a line of victories at Narragansett, and W. P. Knapp, who won a victory over Taylor at Rochester, N. Y., New Haven, Monterey, Cal., Bar Harbor, Nahant, Narragansett, Lenox and other places where there are fine courts, and altogether the season promises to be an unusually excellent one for the devotees of the popular sport.



THE FOUR CHAMPIONS.

Dr. David Kennedy, of Boudant, N. Y., the famous surgeon and physician, has sent us a copy of his book, "How to Cure Kidney, Liver and Blood Disorders." It is a work which should be read in every library, for the value of the medical lessons alone. It contains also many life illustrations, and two fascinating stories from the widely known author "New Burens." Anyone sending their address with name of this paper to Dr. Kennedy, will receive the book free of charge. For sale by Z. C. M. I. drug department.

Last year they won a victory over Hall and Carter, two of the finest cranks in the west, scoring in the finals 6-3, 6-1 and 6-3. The Chicago tournament will decide the competition of the east and west at Newport and the American double championship for 1890.

Not the least interesting feature for the season is the single and double championships for women. There are several tennis clubs composed exclusively of the fair sex and belonging to the U. S. N. L. T. A., a majority of them located in New York and Philadelphia. Last year there were several exciting matches, in which the superior play of Miss Robinson and Miss Roosevelt was quite marked. In some of the tournaments—notably at Narragansett Pier—there were rallies in which the ball crossed the net more frequently than in the best contests between men. It is generally agreed that in "lobbing" and "tossing," the ladies are the peers of the male players, as these strokes call for delicacy and deftness, rather than strength.

According to the best masculine experts, the ladies have been lagging a delusion in regarding lawn tennis as a game peculiarly suited to their sex. It goes quite nicely when they play in a mild, easy-going fashion, as one sees it played occasionally. But tennis is very far from being a woman's sport. As now played by amateurs all over the country, it demands a degree of muscular exertion and even violence as great as base ball. Yet a woman's condition when she sets out to play is going to win; and she swings her drapery, tightens her hat or her particular tennis cap, sticks her little heels deep into the turf and clutching the racket, runs up to the net and "smashes" the ball like a little man. She can't make a long stroke, like her masculine partner, but she can smash and volley and do all the difficult things, and do them well, too. All she lacks is the physical strength

and endurance that are essential to the game, especially when she has to be on her feet at it for hours on a broiling day. "They can't play the game at all," says the Secretary of the U. S. N. L. T. A. "The exercise is too violent for them. They play very nicely among themselves, however." Champion Taylor says the same thing, practically. Still the dear creatures keep it up and seem to enjoy it.

The inter-collegiate tournament at New Haven in October is yet too far ahead to discuss. A score of the smaller tennis clubs have arranged their meeting at Rochester, N. Y., New Haven, Monterey, Cal., Bar Harbor, Nahant, Narragansett, Lenox and other places where there are fine courts, and altogether the season promises to be an unusually excellent one for the devotees of the popular sport.

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